10. Large scale employment opportunities are provided by the Railways. Nationalised Banks and Public Sector Enterprises. In these cases also the concerned departments should ensure that special consideration is given to recruitment from minority communities.

11. In many areas recruitment is done through competitive examinations. Often minority groups have been handicapped in taking advantage of the educational system to compete on equal terms in such examinations. To help them to overcome these handicaps, steps should be taken to encourage the starting of coaching classes in minority educational institutions to train persons to compete successfully in these examinations.

12. The acquisition of technical skills by those minorities who are today lagging behind would also help in national development. Arrangements should be made to set up ITIs and polytechnics by Government or private agencies in predominently minority areas to encourage admission in such institutions of adequate number of persons belonging to these communities.

III. *Other Measures*

13. In various development programmes, including the 20-Point Programme, care should be taken to see that minorities secure in a fair and adequate measures the benefits flowing therefrom. In the various committees which are set up to oversee the implementation of such programmes, members of those communities should be actively involved.

14. Apart from the general issues to which I have referred there are various local problems which develop into needless irritants to minorities. For instance encroachment of Wakf properties and on graveyards have led to protests and grievances in some places. Suitable steps should be taken to deal with such problems on an expeditious and satisfactory basis.

15. Problems relating to minorities need to be attended to on a continuing basis so that apprehensions are allayed and genuine grievances redressed. To facilitate this, a special cell will be created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to minorities.

Exploitation of turmeric growers in Andhra Pradesh

2801. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year the farmers growing turmeric in Andhra Pradesh are exploited by middlemen; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up any suitable processing industry for the commodity in order to redress farmers' problems, and offer remunerative prices to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have not received any reports in this regard.

(b) This Ministry does not have any proposal to set up processing unit for turmeric in Andhra Pradesh.

Supply of rice and wheat to Maharashtra

2802. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is a deficit State in foodgrains production and depends upon supplies from the Central Government;

(b) the actual requirements of foodgrains, rice and wheat of that State during the last year and this year;

(c) whether that State has requested for increased allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool; and

(d) whether the request has been acceded to?